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Carlson Companies

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Carlson (often referred to by its previous name **Carlson Companies**) is an American privately held international corporation in the hotel, restaurant, and travel industries. Headquartered in Minnetonka, Minnesota, a Minneapolis suburb, Carlson brands and services, including franchised operations, employ more than 175,000 people in more than 160 countries and territories.[*citation needed*] The company's 2012 sales, including those from franchised operations, totaled $37.6 billion. It is one of the largest family-held corporations in the United States.

Carlson

Type	Closely Held Corporation
Industry	Hospitality, Travel
Founded	1938
Headquarters	Minnetonka, Minnesota, USA
Key people	Trudy Rautio (President and CEO)
Products	Hotel, Restaurant and Travel services
Employees	About 175,000
Website	www.carlson.com

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History [edit]

Carlson was founded in 1938 as the **Gold Bond Stamp Company** by Curt Carlson, who used a $55 loan to start his venture. Founded during the Great Depression, Mr. Carlson used "Gold Bond Stamps", a consumer loyalty program based on trading stamps, to provide consumer incentive for grocery stores.

Gold Bond stamps were used as customer incentives in many supermarkets and gas stations (and other businesses) and they could be redeemed for a large array of merchandise, from a set of steak knives up to a mink coat. During the 1950s, Carlson was the largest supplier of mink coats in the United States. Sales were brisk until the late 1960s when trading stamps began to lose popularity.

The company was renamed **Carlson Companies, Inc.** in 1973 as they diversified into the hospitality, corporate incentive, and travel industries.

In 1962, Carlson purchased their first Radisson Hotel in Minneapolis. CCI (as it was known internally) then went on to purchase T.G.I. Friday's in 1975 and Country Kitchen International in 1977. In 1987, Carlson founded Country Inns & Suites By Carlson. In 2000, Carlson acquired the Park Plaza and Park Inn brands.

The original Radisson acquisition was a vintage Minneapolis hotel, named for French explorer Pierre Radisson. Mr. Carlson and nine local businessmen friends bought it jointly, each holding ten percent. The other owners later dropped out one by one, Curt Carlson buying up each person's share until he owned the entire hotel. It was demolished in 1982, considered as being too old and deteriorated to renovate profitably. However, Carlson had built an associated hotel a few years earlier, the Radisson South in south suburban Bloomington, which was thriving. That, and the success of a Radisson Inn built near the company headquarters, motivated Carlson to construct a new Radisson on the downtown site of the demolished hotel. Thereafter, the chain grew rapidly by franchising the name and taking management contracts for new hotels throughout the USA.

By the early 1980s, Curt Carlson had acquired over 50 diverse businesses, most of them small and some not running profitably. Under the administration of president Edwin C. "Skip" Gage, husband of Curt's younger daughter, the majority of those small enterprises were sold. The company then purchased the MacDonald Plaid Stamp business (a public company listed on the New York Stock Exchange) and merged it with the Gold Bond Stamp business to become the largest trading stamp company in the world.

In 1994, Carlson Travel Group and Paris-based Wagonlit Travel signed an alliance to form Carlson Wagonlit Travel (CWT)— one of the world's largest business travel management companies.

In a return to their roots, the Carlson Companies started an electronic consumer incentive program named GoldPoints.com in 1997. The program later was modified and became goldpoints plus, the incentive program of Carlson Hotels. (Effective March 31, 2011, Club Carlson replaced the goldpoints plus hotel loyalty program.)

In 1998, Curtis L. Carlson named his daughter Marilyn Carlson Nelson as his successor; a year later he died.[1] Hubert Joly became Carlson's president and chief executive officer in 2008 and served in this capacity until August

2012, when he was succeeded by Trudy Rautio. Rautio most previously served as the company's CFO. In May 2013, Diana Nelson assumed the chairmanship of the board of directors, succeeding her mother, Marilyn Carlson Nelson, who also continues to serve on board.

Portfolio [edit]

Carlson's subsidiaries include:

Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group

- Radisson
- Radisson Blu
- Radisson Red
- Country Inns & Suites
- Park Inn
- Park Plaza Hotels & Resorts
- Hotel Missoni (such as Hotel Missoni Kuwait)
- Quorvus Collection

Carlson Restaurants

- TGI Fridays

Carlson Wagonlit Travel

- Carlson Wagonlit Travel

Responsible Business [edit]

The company is internationally known for its commitment to the communities it serves, most notably for its work in the prevention and intervention of sex trafficking. In May 2013, in recognition of its commitment, Carlson was awarded the inaugural Award for Extraordinary Efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons , an honor bestowed as part of the Obama Administration's Task Force on Trafficking.

References [edit]

1. ^ Beverly Kopf, Bobbie Birleffi. Not Her Father's Chief Executive. U.S. News & World Report. (22 October 2006) [1]

External links [edit]

- Official website
- Carlson History
- Contact ." Carlson Companies. Retrieved on February 9, 2011. "Carlson 701 Carlson Parkway Minnetonka, MN 55305 U.S.A."
- Club Carlson[SM]

v · t · e ·	Carlson
Hotels	Country Inns & Suites · Hotel Missoni · Park Inn · Park Plaza · Radisson · Radisson Blu ·
Restaurants	Country Kitchen · T.G.I. Friday's ·
Travel	Carlson Wagonlit Travel ·

v · t · e ·	Minnesota-based corporations
Fortune 500 Corporations (by size)	UnitedHealth Group · Target · Best Buy · SuperValu · CHS · 3M · U.S. Bancorp · Medtronic · General Mills · Xcel Energy · Ameriprise Financial · C. H. Robinson Worldwide · Mosaic · Hormel · Thrivent Financial for Lutherans · Ecolab · St. Jude Medical · Nash Finch ·
Other public companies	Companies listed above, plus: Pentair · Valspar · Patterson Companies · Securian Financial Group · Regis · Polaris Industries · Toro · Deluxe · Donaldson · Fastenal · Federated Mutual Insurance Company · MTS Systems Corporation ·
Major non-public corporations (alphabetically)	Andersen · Cargill · **Carlson** · Holiday Stationstores · Land O'Lakes · Schwan Food Company · Securian Financial Group ·

v · t · e ·	Hotel chains
Accor	Adagio · Formule 1/F1/Formula 1 · Ibis (Budget · Styles) · Mercure / Grand Mercure · MGallery · Novotel (Suite Novotel) · Pullman · The Sebel · Sofitel · Thalassa sea & spa ·
Carlson Rezidor	Country Inns & Suites · **Hotel Missoni** · **Park Inn** · Park Plaza · Radisson · Radisson Blu ·
Choice Hotels	Ascend Collection · Cambria Suites · Clarion · Comfort Inn · Comfort Suites · Econo Lodge · Mainstay Suites · Quality Inn · Rodeway Inn · Sleep Inn · Suburban Extended Stay Hotel ·
FRHI	Fairmont Hotels · Raffles · Swissôtel ·

Hilton	Conrad Hotels · DoubleTree · Embassy Suites · Hampton Inn · Hilton Garden Inn · Hilton Grand Vacations · Hilton Hotels & Resorts · Home2 Suites · Homewood Suites · Waldorf Astoria ·
Hyatt	Andaz · Grand Hyatt · Hyatt · Hyatt House · Hyatt Place · Hyatt Regency · Park Hyatt ·
InterContinental	Candlewood Suites · Crowne Plaza · Holiday Inn · Holiday Inn Express · Hotel Indigo · InterContinental · Staybridge Suites ·
Marriott	AC Hotels · Autograph Collection · Bulgari Hotels & Resorts · Courtyard · EDITION Hotels · ExecuStay · Fairfield Inn · Gaylord Hotels · Grand Residences · JW Marriott · Marriott Conference Centers · Marriott Executive Apartments · Marriott Golf · Marriott Hotels & Resorts · Marriott Vacation Club · Moxy Hotels · Renaissance Hotels · Residence Inn · Ritz-Carlton · Ritz-Carlton Destination Club · SpringHill Suites · TownePlace Suites ·
Pan Pacific	Parkroyal · Pan Pacific ·
Starwood	Aloft Hotels · Element by Westin · Four Points · Golden Tulip · Le Méridien · St. Regis · Sheraton · W Hotels · Westin Hotels · The Luxury Collection ·
Taj Hotels	Gateway · Ginger · Taj · Vivanta ·
Wyndham	Baymont Inn & Suites · Days Inn · Hawthorn Suites · Howard Johnson's · Knights Inn · Microtel · Ramada · Super 8 · Travelodge · Wingate by Wyndham · Wyndham Grand · Wyndham Hotels & Resorts ·
Other	7 Days Inn · Ace Hotel · Aerowisata · America's Best Franchising (Jameson Inn) · AmericInn · Apex Hotels · Aqua · Best Western · Budget Host · Canad Inns · Canalta · Club Med · Coast Hotels · COMO Hotels and Resorts · Dan Hotels · Drury Inn · Easy Hotel · Extended StayAmerica · Four Seasons · Hanting Inns and Hotels · Home Inn · Hoshino Resorts · InTown Suites · Isrotel · Jumeirah · Kempinski · Kimpton Hotels · La Quinta Inn · The Leading Hotels of the World · Loews Hotels · Magnuson Hotels · Mandarin Oriental · Masters Inn · Marco Polo · Millennium & Copthorne Hotels · Morgans Hotel Group · Motel 6 · Mövenpick · NH Hoteles · Omni Hotels · Outrigger/Ohana · Paradores · Premier Inn · The Peninsula Hotels · Red Carpet Inn · Red Lion Hotels Corporation · Red Roof Inn · RIU Hotels · Sandman Hotels · Scandic Hotels · Scottish Inns · Shangri-La · Standard Hotels · Sol Meliá · Thistle · Toyoko Inn · Trump · Vantage Hospitality · Value Place · Vienna Hotels ·
Defunct	Adam's Mark · AmeriHost Inn · AmeriSuites · Cross Country Inn · Exel Inn · Hiway House · Imperial 400 · Jack Tar Hotels · Shoney's Inn · Susse Chalet · Statler Hotels · Tage Inn ·
List articles	List of chained-brand hotels · List of defunct hotel chains · List of hotels · List of hotels in the United States · List of largest hotels in the world · List of motels · Lists of hotels ·
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